

CONFIDENTIAL.]

## REPORT

[No. 12 of 1878.]

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 23rd March 1878.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No.                         | Names of Newspapers.             | Place of publication.     | Number of copies issued. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <b>BENGALI.</b>             |                                  |                           |                          |   |
| <i>Monthly.</i>             |                                  |                           |                          |   |
| 1                           | "Bhārat Shramjibī" ... ..        | Barāhanagar ...           | 4,000                    |   |
| 2                           | "Rajshahye Sambād" ... ..        | Rajshahye ...             | .....                    |   |
| 3                           | "Grāmbartā Prakāshikā" ... ..    | Comercolly ...            | 200                      |   |
| 4                           | "Arya Pratibhā" ... ..           | Bhowanipore ...           | .....                    |   |
| 5                           | "Suhrid" ... ..                  | Calcutta ...              | .....                    |   |
| <i>Bi-monthly.</i>          |                                  |                           |                          |   |
| 6                           | "Culna Prakāsh" ... ..           | Culna ...                 | .....                    |   |
| 7                           | "Hindu Lalanā" ... ..            | Nawabgunge, Barrack-pore. | .....                    |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>              |                                  |                           |                          |   |
| 8                           | "Banga Hitaishī" ... ..          | Bhowanipore ...           | .....                    |   |
| 9                           | "Bishwa Dūt" ... ..              | Tāligunj, Calcutta ...    | .....                    | 13th March 1878.                                    |
| 10                          | "Bhārat Mihir" ... ..            | Mymensing ...             | 658                      | 14th ditto.   |
| 11                          | "Bhārat Sangskārak" ... ..       | Calcutta ...              | .....                    | 11th ditto.   |
| 12                          | "Bengal Advertiser" ... ..       | Ditto ...                 | .....                    |   |
| 13                          | "Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..           | Dacca ...                 | 400                      | 17th ditto.   |
| 14                          | "Education Gazette" ... ..       | Hooghly ...               | 1,168                    | 15th ditto.   |
| 15                          | "Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ... .. | Berhampore ...            | .....                    | 15th ditto.   |
| 16                          | "Pratikār" ... ..                | Ditto ...                 | 235                      | 15th ditto.   |
| 17                          | "Grāmbartā Prakāshikā" ... ..    | Comercolly ...            | 200                      | 16th ditto.   |
| 18                          | "Sambād Bhāskar" ... ..          | Calcutta ...              | .....                    |   |
| 19                          | "Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..        | Ditto ...                 | 5,500                    | 16th ditto.   |
| 20                          | "Sādhārani" ... ..               | Chinsurah ...             | 516                      | 10th and 17th March 1878.                           |
| 21                          | "Hindu Hitaishini" ... ..        | Dacca ...                 | 300                      | 16th March 1878.                                    |
| 22                          | "Soma Prakāsh" ... ..            | Bhowanipore ...           | 700                      | 18th ditto.   |
| 23                          | "Sahachar" ... ..                | Calcutta ...              | .....                    | 11th ditto.   |
| 24                          | "Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..           | Bauleah, Rajshahye ...    | .....                    | 13th ditto.   |
| 25                          | "Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..    | Kākiniā, Rungpore ...     | 250                      | 28th February.                                      |
| 26                          | "Burdwan Prachārikā" ... ..      | Burdwan ...               | 165                      |   |
| <i>Bi-weekly.</i>           |                                  |                           |                          |   |
| 27                          | "Banga Mittra" ... ..            | Calcutta ...              | 4,000                    |   |
| <i>Daily.</i>               |                                  |                           |                          |   |
| 28                          | "Sambād Prabhākar" ... ..        | Ditto ...                 | 550                      | 11th to 16th March 1878.                            |
| 29                          | "Sambād Purnachandrodaya" ... .. | Ditto ...                 | .....                    | 16th to 22nd ditto.                                 |
| 30                          | "Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..      | Ditto ...                 | .....                    | 14th and 16th ditto.                                |
| 31                          | "Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..  | Ditto ...                 | 625                      | 15th to 21st ditto.                                 |
| 32                          | "Arya Mihir" ... ..              | Ditto ...                 | .....                    |   |
| <b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b> |                                  |                           |                          |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>              |                                  |                           |                          |   |
| 33                          | "Howrah Hitakārī" ... ..         | Bethar, Howrah ...        | 300                      | 10th March 1878.                                    |
| 34                          | "Moorshedabad Patrikā" ... ..    | Berhampore ...            | .....                    | 8th ditto.  |
| 35                          | "Burrisal Bārtābaha" ... ..      | Burrisal ...              | 300                      |   |
| <b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>    |                                  |                           |                          |   |
| 36                          | "Urdu Guide" ... ..              | Calcutta ...              | 400                      | 16th ditto.   |
| <b>URDU.</b>                |                                  |                           |                          |   |
| <i>Bi-monthly.</i>          |                                  |                           |                          |   |
| 37                          | "Akhbār-ul-Akhiār" ... ..        | Mozufferpore ...          | .....                    |   |
| <b>HINDI.</b>               |                                  |                           |                          |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>              |                                  |                           |                          |   |
| 38                          | "Behār Bandhu" ... ..            | Bankipore, Patna ...      | 509                      |   |
| <b>PERSIAN.</b>             |                                  |                           |                          |   |
| 39                          | "Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..          | Calcutta ...              | 250                      | 15th ditto.   |

## POLITICAL.

SADHARANI,  
March 16th, 1878.

"What pleasure is there in such Government?" is the heading of an editorial in the *Sádháraní*, of the 16th March; from which we take the following:—The British nation has, for a long time past, carried on commercial transactions in this extensive world; but it is to be regretted that it has not yet been able to obtain a clear knowledge of accounts. There was a time, when there was a demand for all the articles imported by this great merchant; and everything was purchased, that was offered for sale, without the customers caring to enquire about its quality. They have now, however, become poor; and a failure of the crops in one year occasions a large number of deaths from starvation. What, then, does it behove the British Government to do at this juncture? The answer is, it has now become its clear duty to curb, in some measure, its commercial propensity, to reduce the number of officers who were first employed for the purpose of attending to its business, or else to make a reduction of their salaries. Should Government act otherwise, it will only betray a lack of intelligence; and, it may be, that the rulers will one morning awake to find that all British commerce has been ruined, that the wrecks of its shops lie strewn about, and no purchasers are forthcoming. The British nation, however, will persist in remaining ignorant of all this; and whenever there is a want of funds for carrying out the purposes of the Indian administration, which is regarded only from a commercial point of view, some article, manufactured for the occasion, is offered for sale at its full value, regardless of the consideration that the customers are so poor that they cannot provide themselves with food. This indifference, on the part of Government, would of course matter but little to us, if the English were not our rulers. But since they have been entrusted with the destinies of the country, we are obliged to make a few observations.

The British Government has, during the late Madras famine, granted relief on an extensive scale. The people of India bless it for this act of generosity, and pray to the gods for the welfare of the present rulers and those that may be appointed to succeed them. They will also, for the same reason, continue to be grateful to the British Government to the end of time. Nor will they ever be found wanting in their duties. But it may, nevertheless, be said that, had the starving native of Madras, when he availed himself of the relief granted by the British Government, enabling him to keep body and soul together, but, known that he would, to his dying day, have to pay a higher salt duty, he would have declined the morsel of food vouchsafed him by a foreign ruler, and died with cheerfulness, considering death a thousand times more desirable than such existence. This, we submit, is no exaggeration. Mr. Eden and other far-sighted rulers may consider the homes of the peasantry full of ease and comfort; but we do not hesitate to say, that this class is steeped in utter poverty. The large majority, about a fifteenth portion, do not know wherewith to feed themselves on the morrow. It is this very class, whom Government has saved alive by granting relief during the famine; and does it behove the rulers now to draw from them the money expended for this purpose? Do not the authorities see what classes bear the burden of the License Tax, the Public Works Cess, Salt Tax, and the revised Stamp duties? They must necessarily be aware of this; but as they are averse to other forms of taxation, all these cesses have been laid upon the peasantry; who, however, have scarcely anything left; and we fear that the burden, last imposed, will prove too much for their backs. We fully admit that Government has had to incur a

considerable amount of expenditure for the purpose of famine relief, and that it is incumbent upon us anyhow to recoup the Exchequer for this outlay. It is, therefore, desirable that those only, who are men of substance, should be required to contribute for this purpose. When lately the public were made acquainted with the low state of the finances, Government was advised to introduce an income tax. Had the suggestion been carried out, there would have been no lack of funds at the disposal of the State, while the masses would not have been affected in the least. Not a few excuses are resorted to by Government, whenever there is any proposal made to impose an income tax; but we know that their chief objection is, that it will, if introduced, touch the pockets of the Europeans. But apart from this, there are other means whereby funds could be obtained, without saddling the poor with additional taxation. But Government is determined not to see them, even if pointed out as clearly as possible. One may be awakened, if he be really asleep; but who will succeed in awakening him, should he, although awake, feign sleep? We wish now to make a few general observations on over-taxation. Is not the Government aware that nothing tends more to breed dissatisfaction? It will possibly be replied that, according to the standard of an administration, based on the civilization of Europe, there is no over-taxation in India. But the pressure of taxation has but little to do with the quality of the administration; it is entirely dependent on the capacity and condition of the people. A tax which I can easily pay is equitable, so far as I am concerned; what I cannot pay, even with great difficulty, is to me an inequitable tax. Do you know what difference there is between your condition and mine? You are a Cræsus in wealth; while I find a difficulty in earning enough for food. You have a hundred ways of raising money; my only capital consists of a plough and two bullocks, and this fertile but famine-afflicted land. Even with this, I pay more in the form of tax than you do. While in your native land, for the benefit of self-government, you pay only an income tax of one per cent., I, for the advantage of a foreign rule, have to pay double. Do not, for the sake of justice, proceed further. I would not have complained, had I but possessed the means.

We are also surprised to notice another error into which Government has fallen, in the matter of an increase of taxation. The Sovereign has always levied a tax from the subjects. But then Dilip was a Sovereign, and the British too have occupied the same position for more than a century. We are not prepared to say that we do not enjoy any benefits in return for the taxes we pay. But all these benefits notwithstanding, when the whole country is groaning under the burden of taxation, Government would be wanting in its duty as a Sovereign, if it did not heed their complaints. It would seem as though the rulers would cast over the land a net of taxation, and so fill up the meshes as to preclude the escape of the smallest fish; and to prevent any of the threads being broken, an armed guard must be set over it, who are to be sustained from the proceeds of the tax.

2. We make the following extracts from an editorial, in the same paper, on the War: As far as we have been

The War.

able to judge, the conditions of the peace,

which has just been concluded, do not augur well for the future. Although, for the present, there has been a termination of hostilities between Russia and Turkey, it is exceedingly probable that, not many days hence, war will again break out and rage fearfully from one end of Christendom to another. We do not, however, attach much importance to the policy of England. Her power of biting has now assumed the shape of wild shrieks. She now wanders about, crying aloud after her interests; and when, with the frowns of Germany, Russia beckons to her for the purpose of explaining the

SADHARANI,  
March 16th, 1878.

conditions of peace, she will find that the approbation of those conditions will be the only way to secure her interests.

The Editor thus concludes the article: Far from being hopeful, the political situation is extremely menacing. War is the most horrible of all calamities which can befall man. Nothing deforms the fair face of Nature so utterly! We cannot tell what has led the most civilized powers of Europe at this time, towards the latter part of the nineteenth century, to make their appearance on the theatre of war. If the end of European civilization be this, we beg to bow to it at a distance.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,  
March 10th, 1878.

3. The *Howrah Hitakari*, of the 10th March, makes the following observations in an article headed "India and the British Parliament:" There is a

proverb that "Whoever goes to Lanká is transformed into a Rákshasha." An Englishman of the purest character and tenderest disposition soon learns to be unkind to the natives, if he but associates for a few days with his European co-residents. As long as he breathes the free air of Britain, he seeks to promote the liberty of other people, is filled with pity at hearing of the distress of the natives of India, and tries by every means in his power to benefit them. But three months' residence in India, and the counsels of the European officers soon make him an altered man. What can a good Viceroy do? Sir John Strachey is unalterable, and so are the members of the Civil Service. And until the present rules of the service are superseded by something better, under which it will be possible for another class of Englishmen to come out to administer the affairs of this country, we cannot expect anything beneficial from the present body of officials. Without the favour of the English people, it is impossible for natives of India to make any political progress. One beneficial effect of the Prince of Wales' visit to India was that, for some time, the English public were led to take an increasing interest in the affairs of the country. We had hoped that the assumption of the Imperial title by the Queen would perpetuate this state of things. But we have been sadly disappointed. The novelty of the thing has worn out, and, as a consequence, Indian speeches are now, as formerly, addressed to empty benches.

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
March 8th, 1878.

4. Adverting to the frequent recurrence of famine of late years, the *Moorshedabad Patrika*, of the 8th March, observes: If the quantity of food produced

in this country were all distributed among the various districts within it, and not allowed to be exported, as is the case at present, we firmly believe that not only in Bengal, but in the whole of India, there would never be any famines. This calamity is chiefly brought about by the action of the local mahajuns, who, for the sake of large profits, sell food-grains for exportation. Even now, while writing this, a large number of bags of rice is piled up in all the railway stations between Azimgunge and Synthea for transport to Calcutta. Fortunately the Railway Company is not able to supply the requisite number of wagons; otherwise there would have been long since a scarcity of food in these parts. The subject should receive the attention of Government.

SADHARANI,  
March 10th, 1878.

5. In the course of an article headed "Suicide or murder," the *Sadhārani*, of the 10th March, remarks that, whatever may be the conclusion of the Lokenathpore case,

nathpore case, the whole affair may be summarised in three short sentences, viz., (1) that Rámngati has met with an untimely death; (2) that two

persons have unjustly suffered imprisonment with the full knowledge of the Magistrate of Nuddea; and (3) that it would not be wrong for the same person to argue that section 124 of the Evidence Act is applicable to a court of first instance, and it is not applicable to a court of appeal.

6. A correspondent of the same paper, writing on this subject, refers to another case of the same nature which took place in the village of Tentulberiah, in

A similar case.

sub-division Meherpore, on the 25th May last. That case also was investigated by Mr. Taylor. The deceased has only an aged mother living in poverty, who has neither the ability nor the means to conduct a prosecution. The facts of the case are briefly these: A buffalo, belonging to one Munsab Shekh, one day strayed into the garden of Mr. Watt, the manager of the Tentulberiah Factory. For this the former was fined Rs. 2-8 by the Sahib. On Friday, the 25th of May last, one Jadudas Bairagee took Munsab to the factory, promising to have his fine remitted. Next morning, however, at about half past 8 A.M., Munsab was found lying dead on the side of a tank called Nútandaha near the factory. The head of the deceased only was in water, the rest of the body was on land. Although investigations were held by Mr. Taylor, the District Superintendent of Police, and some other officers, the mystery has not yet been cleared up.

SADHARANI,  
March 10th, 1878.

7. The *Bishwa Dút*, of the 13th March, dwells on the poverty of the country, the large amount of the public debt, and the extravagant expenditure of Government. The recurrence of famines and other natural calamities has quite exhausted the resources of the people. Their means of earning a livelihood are restricted. They derive but little advantage from trade and commerce, which are entirely in the hands of the Europeans. Under these circumstances, the present expensive administration is not suited to them. India is further required to bear charges, such as the cost of the Abyssinian War, for which she should not, in justice, be held liable. Her revenues also are wastefully expended in not a few cases. The visit of the Prince of Wales and the ceremony of the Imperial Assemblage cost per much. Government cannot too soon learn the wisdom of living within its income.

BISHWA DUT,  
March 13th, 1878.

8. The *Sambád Prabhákar*, of the 13th March, deprecates the annual Governmental sojournings in the Hills. sojournings in the Hills, made by the heads of the different Indian Governments, a practice which costs a large sum to the Exchequer. Considering that most of the officers, who enjoy this privilege, with the exception of the Viceroy, of course, who is fresh from England, have spent a great portion of their lives in the Indian plains, without injury to their health, throughout the year, the expenditure incurred in these annual trips must be regarded as unnecessary. There is no reason to suppose that the health of an officer becomes more delicate as soon as he attains to a Lieutenant-Governorship. Sir John Strachey recently said in public that further reduction of expenditure was impossible. But is not there room for retrenchment in this matter? Even if it be necessary to go to the Hills every year, why go there so long before the advent of the hot season?

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR,  
March 13th, 1878.

9. Adverting to the reductions proposed to be made in the Police Department, without impairing its efficiency, the *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 14th March, remarks that there can be no objection to this course, provided that administrative efficiency remain intact and Government is enabled to make a saving of about two lakhs of rupees a year. The attention of the authorities, however, should be directed to a reformation of the abuses that have entered into this branch of the public service. These are mostly due to the

BHARAT MIHIR,  
March 14th, 1878.

fact, that a large number of the members of the old police, all illiterate and unprincipled men, have found employment in the new; and that even now sufficient inducement is not held forth to educated natives to enter this service. The work of the police being closely connected with the administration of criminal justice, it is exceedingly necessary that only educated men should be appointed to it, and that a stop should be put to the system, under which it is possible for an ignorant constable, on Rs. 6 a month, to gradually ascend the top of the ladder and become an Inspector. As to the superior officers, it should be observed that there does not appear to be any necessity for entertaining two Deputy Inspectors-General, and posting a District Superintendent and an Assistant Superintendent in one place. As far as Mymensingh is concerned, this necessity is not at all clear. It has never yet received a visit from either the Inspector-General or his Deputy.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
March 14th, 1878.

10. We make the two following extracts from an article in the same paper on the Lokenathpore case: If the occurrence of such a fearful case of oppression

The Lokenathpore case.

has been possible in Krishnaghur, which is near Calcutta, who knows or enquires about what takes place in different parts of the distant mofussil? Wherever the dispute is between a European and Native, rest assured that justice will not abide even in the neighbourhood. Not the smallest portion of the occurrences, that take place in the different parts of the country, and of the cases of brutal oppression, that are perpetrated in the name of justice, is ever brought to light. How few ever reach the newspapers! We are really tired of reading the sad accounts of oppressions and miscarriages of justice that have successively taken place.

The present case being *sub judice*, we shall only content ourselves with asking—Who should be held responsible for the two weeks' imprisonment suffered by the two defendants? The law, under which the Magistrate confessed his inability to support the conviction during the appeal, was equally in force when the case was tried by Mr. Taylor; and why did Mr. Stevens, who was fully aware of it, procure their conviction at the hands of that officer? In any civilized country of Europe, the question would have been asked in a voice of thunder, and have sent a thrill of fear through the guilty hearts of Messrs. Stevens, Taylor, and Skrine. Unfortunately public opinion in India is not sufficiently strong; independence is not so much prized; and the majority of Europeans are indifferent to cases of failure of justice, when the victim is a native. Otherwise we should not have had to hear new Kirkwood stories almost every day.

BHARAT MIHIR.

11. The same paper directs the attention of Government to an order, passed by Mr. Eden last year, in which District Road Cess Committees were directed to employ educated natives as their engineers. It is to be regretted that the important and sound advice, contained in this order of His Honor, should have been overlooked. The subject should, therefore, again receive the consideration of Government.

Appointment of native engineers to District Road Cess Committees.

PRATIKAR,  
March 15th, 1878.

12. The *Pratikár*, of the 15th March, contains an article on "Loyalty and the Native Newspapers," in which he derides the ignorance betrayed by the Calcutta

Loyalty and the Native Press.

correspondent of the *London Standard*, in a recent letter to that paper on this subject, wherein he describes Moorshedabad as lying in the North-Western Provinces, and the *Bhárat Mihir*, a paper published in Mymensingh, as a Calcutta print. The writer further dwells on the loyalty of the Native Press, and the services rendered by it to the cause of good

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government. His observations, on this part of the subject, are identical with those noticed in paragraph 1 of our last Report.

13. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 16th March, protests against the levy of a license tax from dancing and singing

The License Tax.

girls, who, in this country, all follow the profession of prostitutes. There is certainly a want of delicacy noticeable in imposing a tax on their ill-gotten earnings. They were exempted from the operation of the income tax, when that was in force.

14. The *Grámbártá Prákáshiká*, of the 16th March, dwells on the misery, occasioned to the people of India, by the recurrence of famines. The rulers are

Famines and taxation.

unwilling to put a stop to the exportation of grain, and, to add to the hardship of the people, are introducing fresh taxes. Natives of Bengal had expected great benefits from the administration of Mr. Eden, but he has greatly disappointed them.

15. The same paper observes with regret that, in spite of the humane laws and rules framed by Government for the benefit of the emigrants to the labour districts,

Appointment of Labour Inspectors.

all these are frustrated through the cupidity of the native recruiters. It, therefore, behoves the authorities to appoint a number of Inspectors of emigration, whose duty it should be to see that the orders of Government, on this subject, are strictly carried out.

16. The *Samáchar Chandriká*, of the 16th March, thus writes on the Vernacular Press Act: The Act has been

The Native Press Act.

so framed that it will completely gag the mouths of the native publicists; and they will not be allowed to say a word against Government. The measure, it appears, will not apply to papers published in English, and will affect only the native prints. There would have been, it seems, no necessity for this law, if the latter had but criticised the acts of Government as strongly as the *Statesman* and the other English papers; for in that case the existing law might have been found sufficient. The British Government is believed to be the most civilized of all the Governments in the world; but an observation of its acts gives us the impression that it is the most selfish. With the sole exception of the liberty of the Press, it has deprived us of all other privileges; even this is now about to be taken away from us. What good thing remains to us? What is the use of newspapers if they are not free? Deprived of their liberty, will native editors now take to filling their columns with stories from the Mahábhárat, and Rámáyan? Our readers need not be told how impartially(?) the officers in the mofussil do their work; and it may be observed that, through fear of the native papers alone, many of them have not yet shown themselves in their true colours. Should, however, the vernacular papers be now deprived of their sting, shall they be any longer regarded with fear? Will the officers be held back from oppressions? Would the Lokenathpore case have ever reached the ears of the Lieutenant-Governor, but for the agitation made about it in the columns of the native newspapers? The Editor, in conclusion, exhorts his contemporaries of the Native Press to move in the matter.

HINDU HITASHINI,  
March 16th, 1878.

GRAMBARTÁ  
PRÁKASHIKÁ,  
March 16th, 1878.

GRAMBARTÁ  
PRÁKASHIKÁ.

SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
March 16th, 1878.

17. The *Sádháraní*, of the 17th March, makes the following observations on the same subject: By this measure

The same subject.

has been destroyed the chief pillar of a noble edifice reared forty-five years ago. The gigantic building, the bricks of which were slowly and cautiously laid one upon another by great men, has now had one of its chief rooms rudely broken by one breath of the Legislature. We can readily understand why the blow has fallen upon the

SADHARANI,  
March 17th, 1878.

native papers to the exclusion of those published in the English language. What is the good of speaking an untruth at the moment of death? The native newspapers, although their number is large, are weak in influence. The same reason, that led our generous Government to prefer the introduction of a license to an income tax, has been at work in exempting English newspapers and laying the burden on the weak. Where is the Newspaper Association now, we ask? Far from promoting the rights of the native papers, their very existence is threatened. What is the use of a newspaper if it is not allowed to write anything which may produce dissatisfaction with Government? Discontent is the life of the body politic; and what is the good of a newspaper if it cannot promote this feeling? It is only one, who is dissatisfied with his position, that seeks to better it and that of Government; the discontent of a people leads to improvement in the law, and thus to the progress of the State. It should, therefore, be the chief object of the Press to perpetuate this state of dissatisfaction. Now if, through the distrust of Government, it is not permitted to do so, newspapers may as well cease to exist. The introduction of this law will terminate their existence. It will be well, if the Native Press Association succeed, by making a powerful agitation, or a respectful representation on the subject, in dissuading Government from the contemplated measure; otherwise the political life of the people will cease to exist.

SADHARANI,  
March 17th, 1878.

The same subject.

18. We give below the translation of a "Dream" from this paper, bearing on the same subject:—

Everything is changing in this world; nothing is stable. From the smallest object to the highest and largest mountain, everything is liable to change. My mind was dwelling upon the fall of the Mahomedans, the rise of the English, the fall of Turkey, the rise of Russia, the oppression of the ruling power, the revolt of the subjects, laws and bye-laws, taxes, the road cess and illegal cesses, the introduction of bills, and a variety of other subjects in turn, when a Pundit, with tears in his eyes, heaving a long sigh said, "The labour of 42 years has now been undone completely." This exceedingly troubled my mind; and thoughts of a serious nature soon induced sleep. I dreamt a dream, in which I fancied myself in Calcutta. People had come from all quarters of the town; the Town Hall was crowded; and every one seemed to be absorbed in deep thought. I asked one of them what was the matter? and the answer was "Botheration! only trouble; the misfortune of the native papers; a monument of Lord Lytton; we have come to show our proof-sheets to the censor." Thereupon I took my stand at a little distance, watching.

There were present four Europeans and one Bengali at the meeting.

An Editor now entered with the proof-sheet of an article in his right hand, and a newspaper in his left, and stood trembling.

*The President*—How long have you conducted this paper?

*Editor*—Incarnation of justice! For the last twenty or twenty-five years.

*President*—Baboo, first read the editorials and then the news.

*Editor*—(reads)—"The liberty of the Newspaper Press." "The criticisms occasionally made by the newspapers——."

*President*—That will do. This is very bad. The liberty of the newspapers has been taken away; why do you write about it again? Read another.

*Editor*—"Mr. Eden has long been known as a friend of the Bengalis——."

*President*—Abuse of Europeans and sedition. Read the news.

*Editor*—"Last Wednesday an European indigo-planter beat his servant so severely that the man died from the effects."

*President*—Well, if there has been death, the Magistrate will try the case, the newspapers must not criticise it. Did you ever hear of a European commit a murder?

*Editor*—Incarnation of justice! All articles and the news being thus disapproved of, it will be really hard if I am again to write afresh; for I have to publish the paper to-day, as it is Monday. And if your Honor again see fit to disapprove of what I may write, the paper cannot possibly be issued this week, and the subscribers will be much displeased.

*President*—Your paper contains perfectly seditious writing. The times are critical. You must know that whether your paper is issued or not, I cannot grant you liberty of speech.

19. Adverting to the sensation which is reported to have occurred in the Cooch Behar Palace, consequent on the order of Government to send the minor Rajah on an English visit, the *Soma Prakāsh*, of the 18th March, confesses his inability to understand the meaning of it all. Why should Government insist upon a visit, to which the female relations of the minor are opposed, and which, if carried out contrary to their wishes, will lead people to charge the authorities with interfering with the religious customs of the minors? The visit is besides quite inopportune. A prolonged residence in England might probably lead the Rajah to prefer, like Duleep Sing, living in England to returning to India. In that case, great injury would be done to the people of Cooch Behar.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
March 18th, 1878.

20. The same paper thus writes on the Vernacular Press Act: This time an infallible arrow has been shot into the heart of native newspapers. If the Act relating to the vernacular newspapers, passed on the 14th March, be strictly carried out, they cannot possibly continue to exist. How fearful its character, and how disfigured it has been by extreme partiality, the readers will be able to judge from the account given below. We did not even dream that our rulers could be so ungenerous. The other day we held in a dispute, with a correspondent, that although an individual official in the mofussil might prove wicked and oppressive, our Government was not certainly so. The utterances of our rulers, however, on Thursday last, have completely brought down our pride. It was Sir Charles Metcalfe who made the Press free. That day and this day! That administration and this! If the necessity has been proved of depriving the Press of its liberty, why has not this been done impartially? The great Lord Canning did so. That was indeed one day, and this another; that one administration, and this another! The Native Press alone has been deprived of its liberty, while the English papers have been exempted. This is indeed a curious story! We do not remember to have ever met with an instance of so much partiality. No native paper ever writes so strongly of Government and public officials as the *Statesman* and other English journals. The Native Editors, however, are not skilful writers. It is indeed amusing to notice that, while anything written in the vernacular is felt and regarded by the authorities as abuse, the same is viewed as healthy criticism, should it appear in any English paper. There are acts occasionally done by the rulers, an impartial discussion of which necessarily becomes abuse in a native paper. We hear it for the first time, however, that such criticism is not blameable in an English journal. As to the greater evil, which is said to be occasioned by the writings of the Native Press, it may be observed that the ignorant masses do not read newspapers, and there are other causes, for their discontent. To test the correctness of our remarks, we would ask Government to put a stop to the publication of all newspapers, and then endeavor to find out whether there be not dissatisfaction in the mind of the people.

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But the effect of this measure will be to stop the publication of all native papers. No Native Editor will be so unwise as to continue to publish his papers at the risk of the penalties laid down in the law. We do not, however, so clearly understand what is meant, when Native Editors are warned not to write against the Government.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 23rd March 1878.*

JOHN ROBINSON,  
*Government Bengali Translator.*